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were divinely ordered as a preparation for Christianity. "All history is sacred." The Spirit of God was at work in the heathen world as well as in the Jewish nation, to kindle a desire for the Redeemer and to foster and stimulate that desire until He shall be revealed. Nowhere are so many facts brought together concerning the ancient religions, or so broad and accurate a view taken of them in so small a compass, as in this volume. It would greatly stimulate all who are students of the Bible, whether ministers or laymen.

LUTHER AND THE BIBLE.*

The present volume of Dr. Schaff's admirable Church History possesses special importance for students of the Bible. The Reformation is the apocalypse and apotheosis of the Scriptures. It began with an opened Bible. Luther's greatest achievement was the German translation of the Scriptures. It is well known that from this period as the beginning, and from the great Reformer as the source, two great movements took their rise, the power of which is by no means broken to-day. On the one hand the Bible became an infallible book, and its very words the sole arbiter and authority in all doubtful questions. On the other hand, in Luther's free treatment of certain parts of the Scriptures may be traced the beginnings of modern rationalism. Two tendencies so opposite sprang from the same soil. In the pages of this volume will be found a clear and full statement of the facts concerning Luther's work upon the Bible and a critical estimate of his version. The dispassionate, industrious and devout spirit that characterizes all of Dr. Schaff's contributions to church history is manifest in this notable book.

GEIKIE'S HOLY LAND AND THE BIBLE.†

The literature which has grown out of Palestine exploration is very copious. Dr. Geikie recognizes the fact in the preface to the work before us. But his aim is in a popular way to employ the *latest* results of investigation in this field, and also by personal observation gather "illustrations of the several writings" from natural objects and local usages. "Nothing is more instructive" (so reads the preface) "or can be more charming, when reading scripture, than the illumination of its texts from such sources, throwing light upon its constantly recurring Oriental imagery and local allusions, and revealing the exact meaning of words and phrases which otherwise would not be adequately understood." From this it will be inferred that Dr. Geikie's itinerary is a sort of topographical commentary on the Bible. A perusal of the books confirms the impression conveyed by the preface. The increased vividness which the work gives to the scenes and events of God's Word will make it a valuable addition to the Bible-student's library. Nevertheless, it is open to criticism. Excessive diffuseness here and there distracts the attention; and there are exegeses that might better be left to the distinctively critical and exegetical commentaries.

* HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. VI. THE GERMAN REFORMATION. 1517-1530. By Philip Schaff, D. D. New York: *Charles Scribner's Sons.* $4.00.

† THE HOLY LAND AND THE BIBLE. A book of Scripture Illustrations gathered in Palestine. By Cunningham Geikie, D. D., Vicar of St. Martin's at Palace, Norwich. With a map of Palestine. 2 vols. New York: *James Pott & Co.* 1888. Pp. vi, 560, 544.